(c) whether Government have any proposal to consider the enhancement of post-matric scholarship in the scheduled areas;

(d) if so, since when;

(e) whether the post-matric scholarship of the ST students living in both scheduled and non-scheduled areas would also be enhanced; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The scheme was last revised in 1998 and prior to that in 1995.

(c) to (f) The scheme is applicable for all ST students in the country, irrespective of whether they are from the scheduled or non- scheduled area, subject to fulfillment of income criteria. Review of the scheme is under consideration.

Transfer of mining lease in tribal areas

1644. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item captioned Tribal Ministry had questioned BALCO sale, which appeared in the Times of India, dated 13th July, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the issue has been taken up again to ensure prohibition of transfer of mining lease in traibal areas to any agency, other than the State or tribals or co-operative society of tribals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has already circulated the relevant extracts of the Supreme Court's judgement in the Samatha Case, restricting the transfer of land in Scheduled areas, to the State Governments for strict compliance. However the land acquired for BALCO at the time of setting up the plant was at per the constitutional provision.